

March 9, 2001

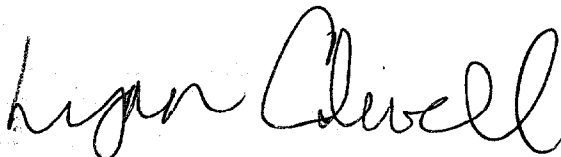
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Jane Hanney, M.D. Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville MD 20857

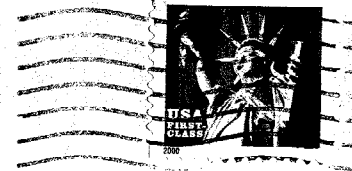
Dear Dr. Hanney,

I would like to express my concern regarding the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture. I am of the same opinion as the Union of Concerned Scientists that the amount of antibiotics given to animals is the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. The European Union has already acted on this issue. The World Health Organization has repeatedly issued warnings to phase out the use of antimicrobials. I am urging the FDA to ban the use of human antibiotics fed to healthy animals for sole intention of maturing animals for slaughter. As a non-vegetarian I would like to be able eat meat that does not create conditions where bacteria can quickly develop resistance to these drugs.

Sincerely,



Lynn Colwell
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